

Application Serial No.: 10/800,123
Amendment and Response to August 23, 2007 Non-Final Office Action

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 30 are in the application. Claims 1, 11, and 21 are currently amended and claims 2 – 10, 12 – 20, and 22 – 30 remain unchanged from the original versions thereof. Claims 1, 11, and 21 are the independent claims herein.

No new matter has been added to the application as a result of the amendments submitted herewith. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

Claims 1, 11 and 21 were objected to for including the alleged informality of "containing one a single". The Office Action suggested this phrase should be replaced with – containing one single — or – containing a single —.

In reply, claims 1, 11, and 21 are currently amended to recite "containing a single". Applicant therefore submits that claims 1, 11, and 21 overcome the objection of record.

Accordingly, the reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to claims 1, 11, and 21 are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

Claims 1 – 4, 6, 8 – 13, 15, 17 – 24, 26, and 28 – 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nguyen et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,995,928, hereinafter referenced as Nguyen in view of Mane et al. U.S. Patent No. 7,242,758, hereinafter referenced as Mane and in further view of Swartz et al. U.S. Publication No. 2006/0219780, hereinafter referenced as Swartz. This rejection is traversed.

Application Serial No.: 10/800,123
Amendment and Response to August 23, 2007 Non-Final Office Action

Applicant respectfully submits that Nguyen fails to disclose or suggest that for which it is cited and relied upon for disclosing in rejecting the subject claims under 35 USC 103(a). In particular, Applicant submits that Nguyen does not disclose or suggest the claimed aspect of "constructing a current potential match set of potential character string matches by: appending one or more characters selected from a set of misrecognized characters including the selected character to each potential character string match in a prior potential match set constructed for a preceding selected character, if any." (See claims 1, 11, and 21)

Applicant notes that the Office Action cited and relied upon Nguyen (col. 3, ln. 62 – col. 3, ln. 57) for allegedly disclosing the claimed aspect of appending one or more characters ...". However, Nguyen provides no disclosure of any appending of characters selected from a set of misrecognized characters. The *comparing* process relied upon in the Office Action does not disclose or provide any details or discussion regarding appending characters. Nguyen discloses "each letter sequence is compared with a list of allowable words". (Nguyen, col. 3, ln. 33 – 34)

Applicant further notes that Nguyen does not disclose the claimed aspect of "constructing a current potential match set of potential character string matches by...deleting from the current potential match set potential character string matches missing from a list of reference character strings" since Nguyen, as cited and relied upon, merely states that letter strings from a speech recognition system may include errors such as "deletions". (Nguyen, col. 4, ln. 36 – 37)

Applicant also notes that Nguyen does not disclose the claimed "transmitting" wherein non-matching potential character string matches are deleted. Instead, Nguyen only discloses obtaining scores for each word in a vocabulary list and providing results based on the highest scoring words, where the highest score correlates to the best choice. Nguyen however discloses that scores for all words are retained since there may be alternate or sequential responses. Thus, the very portion of the Nguyen disclosure relied upon by the Office teaches against the claimed "deleting" since it

Application Serial No.: 10/800,123
Amendment and Response to August 23, 2007 Non-Final Office Action

explicitly states that results (i.e., scores) are retained in case the best result/highest scoring word is incorrect and/or the scored words may be needed for future responses.

Regarding Mane, Applicant submits that Mane fails to correct the shortcomings of Nguyen.

Therefore, based on the failure of the combination of Nguyen and Mane to disclose or suggest the claimed aspects for which they are cited and relied upon for disclosing, the reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 – 4, 6, 8 – 13, 15, 17 – 24, 26, and 28 – 30 are requested, as well as the allowance of same.

Claims 5, 7, 14, 16, 25, and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nguyen in view of Mane and Swartz and in further view of Green U.S. Patent No. 6,741,985. This rejection is traversed.

Inasmuch as Nguyen and Mane fail to support the rejection of the base claims under 35 USC 103(a), Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of Nguyen, Mane, Swartz, and Green also fails to render claims 5, 7, 14, 16, 25, and 27 obvious.

Applicant therefore requests the reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 5, 7, 14, 16, 25, and 27, as well as the allowance of same.

Claim 20 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nguyen in view of Mane and Swartz and in further view of Wang et al. U.S. Publication No. 2002/0174147, hereinafter referenced as Wang. This rejection is traversed.

Inasmuch as Nguyen and Mane fail to support the rejection of the base claim under 35 USC 103(a), Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of Nguyen, Mane, Swartz, and Wang also fails to render claim 20 obvious.

Applicant therefore requests the reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 20, as well as the allowance of same.

Application Serial No.: 10/800,123
Amendment and Response to August 23, 2007 Non-Final Office Action

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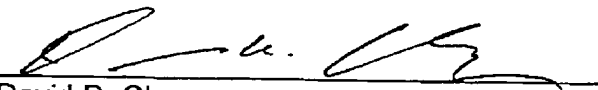
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CONCLUSION

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting allowance of the present application, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned via telephone at (408) 492-5336.

Respectfully submitted,

21 Dec. 2007
Date


David D. Chung
Registration No. 38,409
(408) 492-5336

SIEMENS CORPORATION
Customer Number: 28524
Intellectual Property Department
170 Wood Avenue South
Iselin, New Jersey 08830

Attn: Elsa Keller, Legal Department
Telephone: 732-321-3026